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8 February 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

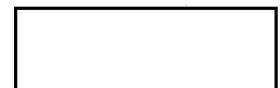
SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Jerrold Schecter,  
Time Correspondent, 7 February 1973

1. On 7 February I took Schecter to lunch and after some desultory conversation about Vietnam, pressed him on the question of whether he had been able to proceed any further in getting Time, Inc. to agree to further discussion on the question of the sourcing and authenticity of the Khrushchev memoirs. After a certain amount of fencing around Schecter said that the immediate problem was that they had a good deal more material which they had received subsequent to the publication of the book. He said this material was received because Khrushchev was very pleased with the book and the fact that the book had been published without serious blowbacks on his family. Schecter said the new material was less personal and more historic in nature but did shed considerable light in terms of Khrushchev's perceptions of the workings of the Soviet system. He said that the same translator, Strobe Talbott, was working on the new material but it would not be in any shape for publication before six to nine months.

2. Schecter was still very jumpy about talking to the Agency either about the previous book or this current material. He said he still did not feel that they could reveal the methods by which they acquired this material and said he did not wish to subject himself to the same kind of grilling that he had when he previously came to the Agency during the course of which he felt his patriotism and honor were being questioned. I said I was sure we could work out some arrangement with a new cast of characters and asked whether he would be willing to talk to John Huizenga the Director of ONE as to some of the perceptions that emerged from the previous book and the new material. I said Huizenga was a man who made a deep study of the Soviet system, was one who came from the non-operational side of the house, and I thought it would at least be worthwhile to meet him and discuss what could be talked about in terms of both the old and the new material.

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Schechter asked for a week to check with New York on this point.

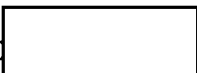
3. Schechter said that Time was in the position where both the Soviets and the Agency were much interested in how the material was gotten out of the Soviet Union and they were not in a position to talk about this. He implied further that they had a commitment with both the Khrushchev family and the Soviet Government to the effect that this material would not be put to "cold war uses." At the same time, he did ask whether we had any experts in "voice prints" who could verify the authenticity of the material they had. At the same time, he asked whether or not Huizenga read Russian. I said I thought so but would check. We left it that I would be in touch with him again after a week.

4. I asked Schechter if he had any thought as to who might write the Laos story up in the proper and non-biased fashion. He said he would be interested in doing it himself and noted that he was to see Dr. Schlesinger in a week to ten days. He also said he had a broader field of coverage now than just the White House and was now the Time diplomatic correspondent in Washington. I said I would advise the Director of his interest.

  
Chief, Far East Division

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